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VIRGINIA IN 1681

(Abstracts by W. N. Sainsbury, and copies in the McDonald and De Jarnette Papers, Virginia State Library.)
(Continued)

(Received) July 26, 1681

HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE COUNCIL AND BURGESSES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA TO THE KING Sets forth their reasons and pray for a total cessation from planting tobacco this next year 1681 in Virginia, Maryland and Carolina, the method & manner thereof they present in a Bill for his Maj.' assent and confirmation. Also implore his Maj.' to remit 1'd per lb. to inhabitants shipping their own tobaccoes to the plantations and ½'d per lb. when sent to England, for seven years; and for his consent to inhance 25 per ct. upon his Majestys and all foreign coins imported hence above their value and that the impost of 2s per hogshead & castle duties be paid in sterling money as formerly. Signed by order of the Council by Nich. Spencer, Secretary, and Thomas Ballard, Speaker.

Indorsed—"Received 26 July 1681."

(*Colonial Papers.*)

Virginia, July 30, 1681

EXTRACT OF A LETTER RECEIVED FROM COLONEL LUDWELL—All their affairs are peaceable, the several Indians drawn off, but not without apprehensions of their returning, as they express dissatisfaction with their own Government as well as that of Maryland—In our ill condition of defence to stand any attack—Intestine distractions of Maryland.

Indorsed "Read 12 Oct., 1681.

(*Colonial Papers.*)

Whitehall, Aug. 10, 1681

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS. Agreed to report that no Grants do pass for the future for the Quit Rents of Virginia to any person whatsoever but that the same be applied to the support of the Government.

(*Colonial Entry Bk. No.* 106. *p.* 274.)

Whitehall, Aug. 16, 1681

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS—Letter to be written to Col. Norwood requiring him to give an account of his receipts and management of the Quit Rents of Virginia to the year 1669—Also that the Surveyor General return surveys of all lands that are patented and sent out and of the Quit rents payable for them—Address of the Assembly concerning the Auditor's place, presented by Lord Culpeper, desiring it may be left to the nomination of the Governor, but their Lordships think fit that the patent granted to Wm. Blathwayt of the place of Surveyor & Auditor General of the Revenue in the Plantations, be punctually complied with in Virginia, and that it is most conducing to his Maj. service that Blathwayt's Deputy be appointed by the Lords of the Treasury, according to said Patent. 1 p.

(*Colonial Entry Bk. No.* 106. *pp.* 275-276.)

ORDER AND REPORT CONCERNING VIRGINIA

(Copy)

At the Court at Whitehall the 17th August 1681

By the Kings most Excellent Ma'ty in Council

Whereas there was this day read at the Board a Report from the Right Hon'ble the Lords of the Committee for Trade and Foreign Plantations concerning the Report of the Petitioner in the words following.

May it Please Your Ma'ty

Upon Consideration of several papers concerning Virginia presented to Us, by the Lord Culpeper and particularly in

Relation to Your Ma'ties Revenues there, We humbly offer that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury may consider of the best means for bringing the Quit Rents of that Plantation into Your Ma'ties hands according to Your gracious promise made to the Assembly, And Whereas for the prevention of the like abuses which have been formerly practised in the management and disposal of the several parts of Your Ma'ties Revenue arising in that Colony Your Ma'ty was pleased by Your Royal Letters dated the 30th June 1680 to signify Your especial Commands and directions in that behalf unto Your Governor and Officers of the Revenue which have not been yet obeyed. We are humbly of opinion that by the Ships now bound thither Your Ma'ty do renew Your former Order strictly charging and requiring all persons concerned therein to pursue your Ma'ties pleasure in the execution of their duty and in rendering true and regular accompt under the Commissioners of Your Ma'ties Treasury of all Moneys raised and expended for Your Ma'ties service in the support of the Government.

All which is humbly submitted.

Council Chamber
the 16th August 1681

Memorandum

That a Letter from His Ma'ty to the Governor of Virginia to this effect is entered in the Book of the Revenue. p. 92.

His Maj'ty was pleased to approve the said Report and to Order as it is hereby Ordered that One of His Ma'ties Principal Secretaries of State do prepare Letter for his Royal Signature unto the Governor of Virginia and other Officers of the Revenue there, pursuant to the said Report.

A true copy teste

W: Davis.

Whitehall, Sept. 17, 1681

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS—Letter read from Col. Norwood in answer to one written by order of the Committee concerning the Quit Rents of Virginia. That he stands acquitted of all arrears whatsoever by Lords Arlington and Culpeper to whom said Quit rents were granted by patent dated 25. Feb. 1672—but their Lordships taking notice that the arrears of Quit rents are only granted from 8 May 1669 Col. Norwood is ordered to give an account of the Quit rents accordingly.

(*Colonial Entry Bk. No.* 106 *p.* 282.)

Oct. 1, 1681

THE KING TO THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA—Taking notice of delays that have been used in relation to the Office of Surveyor and Auditor of the Revenue [held by William Blathwayt] and requiring all obedience to be given thereunto and a true account given to the Lords of the Treasury according to the rules and methods afore mentioned.

(Colonial Papers, see 20 Nov. 1679.) Another copy is in *Col. Entry Bk. No.* 99.

Oct. 18, 1681

GOVERNOR LORD CULPEPER'S PROPOSALS CONCERNING VIRGINIA presented to the Committee for Trade and Plantations—To encourage the building of Towns by all possible means, that being the only visible way to make that Colony flourish and will at once be a remedy to all persons and grievances—The constant and punctual payment of the soldiers' Quarters &c. with all arrears—the opening of a free trade for Muscoe[vy] if possible—the uniting all his Maj. subjects in America to assist each other, in case of Foreign enemies, rebellions or Indians.—An exact and speedy enquiry to be made of the present disturbances in Maryland and in the meantime all Offices Civil and Military to be only in Protestant hands, also the arms lately sent thither. 2 pp.

(*Colonial Papers.*) Another copy is in *Colonial Entry Bk. No.* 80. *pp.* 405-407.)

Whitehall, Oct. 18, 1681

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS—A paper of proposals presented by Lord Culpeper read—That the building of Towns in Virginia be encouraged, which is greed to—That Soldiers Quarters be duly paid—Lord Culpeper to give his reasons why the two Companies should not be disbanded—That a free trade be opened to Muscovy: this to be taken into further consideration—The 4th and 5th Articles for the conjunction of his Maj. subjects against the Indians and concerning the disturbances in Maryland, to be further inquired into and considered.

(*Colonial Entry Bk. No.* 106, *p.* 292.)

Oct. 25, 1681

THOS. LORD CULPEPER'S REASONS FOR CONTINUING THE SMALL FORCES (two Companies) the King now hath in Virginia presented to the Committee for Trade and Plantations in pursuance of their Lordships commands of the 18th inst.—The extreme apprehension of our invasion and war with the Foreign Indians particularly the Senecas, who are well armed, valiant, cunning and numerous—the north part of Carolina always dangerous to Virginia, being the resort of the scum and refuse of America and as yet almost, without the face of Government—the unsettled condition of Maryland, any disturbance there affecting Virginia as much as if in Virginia itself, there being only a river between them—the extreme low price of tobacco, the only product of their lands and the remembrance of the late Rebellion which cost the King above £100.000—the remoteness of habitation there makes the militia less useful & when used very chargeable.

"Read 25 Oct. 1681."

(*Colonial Papers.*) Another copy 3 pp. is in *Colonial Entry Bk. No.* 80. *pp.* 407-409.)

Whitehall, Oct. 25, 1681

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS—Capt. Morris, an Officer in the Company of Virginia says

that at his coming from Virginia the two Companies wanted but four men to make them complete and that the people are in a very unquiet and unsettled condition by reason of their extreme poverty—Lord Culpeper's reasons against the two Companies now in Virginia being disbanded to be further considered when the chief Merchants & Planters of Virginia are to attend, and the occasion for sending over the two Companies to be inquired into and represented to the Committee.

(*Colonial Entry Bk. No.* 106. *pp.* 294-5.)

Oct., 1681

AN ACCOUNT OF ALL SORTS OF MERCHANDIZES EXPORTED TO HIS MAJ. PLANTATIONS FROM THE PORT OF LONDON in the month of October 1681, abstracted out of a book received from the Commissioners of the Customs—This refers also to Virginia. Also a Similar Account of Imports.

(*Col. Entry Bk. No.* 97. *pp.* 78-80.)

Council Chamber, 31 October, 1681

WILLIAM BLATHWAYT TO LORD CULPEPER—The Lords of Trade and Plantations desire he will give them, with all convenient speed, an entire state of the Government of Virginia both Civil and Military and of the condition it is in at present, as to the security or insecurity thereof, also an account of moneys received by his Lordship as Governor of Virginia & how same has been expended in the support of the Government.

(*Col. Entry Bk. No.* 82. *p.* 1.)

LETTER TO LORD CULPEPER

(Copy)

Council Chamber, Oct. 31, 1681

My Lord

The Right Hono'ble the Lords of the Committee of Trade and Foreign Plantations desire your Lo'p to give them with all convenient speed an entire state of the Government of

Virginia both Civil and Military and of the condition it is in at present as to the security or insecurity thereof. As also a particular accompt of all moneys received by your Lordship as Governor of Virginia or upon any establishment payable of y'e Excheq'r in relation thereunto, and how the same have been expended in the support of the Government.

I am &c. W. B.

A true copy teste

J. W. Greenwood.

REPORT TOUCHING COMPANIES OF FOOT IN VIRGINIA

(Copy)

May it please Yo'r Ma'tie

We have taken into our consideration the present state of Virginia and, having been attended by Merchants and others well acquainted with that Plantation, wee are informed that the Country is in great danger of disturbance as well out of an apprehension of the Indians, as by reason of the extreme poverty of the People occasioned by the low price of Tobacco which, tis fear'd may induce the servants to plunder the Stores of the Planters and the Ships arriving there and to commit other outrages and disorders as in the late Rebellion. And therefore we are humbly of opinion That the two foot Companies at present maintained by Your Ma'ty there ought to be continued and well paid in order to prevent or suppress any Insurrection that may otherwise happen during the necessitous unsettled condition of the Colonie.

All w'ch is most humbly submitted

Anglesey. C. P. S. Clarendon

L. Jenkins E. Seymour.

Council Chamber

31. Oct. 1681.

A true Copy Teste

J. W. Greenwood.

ORDER FOR PAYING TWO FOOT COMPANIES

(Copy)

At the Court at Whitehall
the 22 of November 1681.
Present

The King's most Excellent Ma'tie in Council.

It is this day Ordered by his Ma'tie in Council That the payments made out of the Exchequer for the Maintenance of the two Foot Companies now in Virg'a as well Officers as privat Soldiers with the Gunsmiths and two Mates, Engineer, Chirurgeon and Chaplain belonging to the said Comp'ies shall cease and determine at Christmas next and that they bee then Disbanded by the Lord Culpeper His Majesties Governor or y'e Commander in Chief of Virginia for the time being, unless the Governor, Council and Assembly shall desire to pay them out of the Revenue raised or to bee raised there for that purpose. His Majestie being willing to consent thereunto.

And It is further Ordered That the Right Hono'ble the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury doe take care that the Arreares which shall bee due to the said Companies at Christmas aforementioned bee satisfied to that time. And the Right Hono'ble the Lords of the Committee of Trade and plantations are alsoe directed to inspect the Revenue arising within that Colonie, to th' end that all abuses in y'e management and disposal thereof may be prevented.

A True Copy Teste J. W. Greenwood.

Whitehall, Oct. 31, 1681

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS—The Committee being met to consider of the state of Virginia and whether it be necessary to continue the two Companies of Foot, Lord Culpeper, Col. Ludwell, Alderman Jeffries and Capt. Morris, Lieut of one of the Companies are called in—Ald. Jeffries says that Virginia is at present poorer, tho' more populous than ever—That there is great apprehension of an insurrec-

tion of the servants by reason of their great necessities and want of clothes and that they may be apt to plunder the storehouses and ships, wherefore he thinks it more necessary than ever to maintain one or two Companies in Virginia, besides that they are in continual fear of the Indians: That he knows not any means to raise the price of Tobacco except the making a less quantity—Capt. Morris says the servants are very poor and ready to plunder their Masters; that he believes there are 80 or 100.000 souls in Virginia—The Committee agree to report that the two Companies may be continued & well paid—Lord Culpeper ordered to present account in writing of his proceedings in Virginia & the present condition of the Country also of all monies received by him. 2 pp.

(*Col. Entry Bk. No.* 106. *pp.* 297-8.)

Whitehall, Nov. 19, 1681

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS—Lord Culpeper attending, petition of the Owners of the ship Planters Adventure is read for exemption from the Impost of 2s. per hogshead but their Lordships taking notice of an Order in Council of 14 Oct. 1680 confirming the late Act of Virginia for levying that duty & disallowing the proviso exempting Virginia owners from payment of it and of an Act of Assembly of 1677 which takes away this privilege, their Lordships are of opinion petitioners cannot pretend to the exemption desired by them; but that the Assembly may present Draught of an Act to the King to exempt such ships as are built in Virginia and do really belong to Virginia owners—Lord Culpeper represents the great abuses committed in Virginia on that score by Masters of ships that make false entries to avoid the duty: he is to state the matter to the Lords of the Treasury in order to an effectual remedy—His Lordship proposes that the King send the value of £200 or £300 worth of Flax seed to Virginia to encourage the planting of that commodity; agreed to report to his Maj.—New

Commission to be prepared for Lord Culpeper—Councillors to be named in the Instructions. 2 pp.

(*Colonial Entry Bk. No.* 106. *pp.* 305-7.)

(Read) Nov. 19, 1681

PETITION OF NATHANIEL BACON, JOHN PAGE, ORTHO THORP AND GEORGE POINDEXTER, OWNERS OF THE SHIP PLANTERS ADVENTURE OF VIRGINIA, TO GOVERNOR LORD CULPEPER—That his Lordship will intercede with the King that petitioners privilege of being free from payment of the 2s. per hogshead and castle duties may be continued—though it is affirmed that the Committee for Foreign Plantations have made objection against a proviso exempting Virginia owners, there being but two ships of this kind, petitioners & Thos. Gervas.'

"Read 19 Nov. 1681." 1. p. (*Colonial Papers.*)

Whitehall, Nov. 22, 1681

ORDER OF THE KING IN COUNCIL—That the payments made out of the Exchequer for the maintenance of the two foot Companies now in Virginia shall cease at Christmas next and that they be disbanded by Gov. Lord Culpeper, unless the Governor, Council and Assembly shall desire to pay them out of the Revenue raised or to be raised there for that purpose. The arrears due to the said Companies to be satisfied up to Christmas as aforesaid.

(*Col. Entry Bk. No.* 82. *pp.* 2-3.)

Whitehall, Nov. 22, 1681

MINUTES OF A COMMITTEE OF TRADE AND PLANTATIONS—Ordered that Draught of new Instructions for Lord Culpeper be prepared like to those given to Sir Thomas Lynch and Sir

Richard Dutton—His Maj. being come to the Council, the report concerning the two Companies of Virginia is read—Ordered that payment be continued to them till Christmas when they shall be disbanded unless the Gov. Council & Assembly desire to pay them out of the revenue raised or to be raised in Virginia for that purpose: the Lords of the Treasury to take care that the arrears due to the Companies at Christmas be satisfied at that time—The Lords Committee to inspect the revenue arising within that Colony to the end that all abuses in the management thereof may be prevented.

(*Col. Entry Bk. No.* 106. *pp.* 308-9.)